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**The New Mexico Higher Education Connection to the
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)
and the Common Core State Standards**

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Lead for PARCC's New Mexico Higher Education Leadership Team (HELT)

What Does PARCC suggest for Higher Education?

1. Integrate Common Core & PARCC into teacher preparation programs
 - Preparing future teachers for the content and pedagogy of the Common Core
 - Preparing future teachers to use PARCC results to improve teaching and learning
2. Work with high schools to make sure more students are "college ready"
 - Senior year support for those that are ready
 - Other high school experiences for those not yet ready
 - Dual credit (funded by the State) vs. concurrent enrollment (not funded by the State)
3. Reconsider freshman courses based on impact of K-12 "Common Core"
 - Assumption that future students will be different in what they know and how they learn
 - Also a call for changes in approaches to "remedial/developmental" courses
4. Use PARCC tests for freshman placement!
 - Based on scores on the Algebra 2 and English 11 End of Course (EOC) exams that imply a 75% chance of a "C" or better on "College Algebra" and "Frosh English I"
 - Scores will be 1 to 5 (like AP) with 4 considered "College Ready"
 - 30 New Mexico Higher Ed faculty will participate in an Educator Judgment Study to help determine those scores
 - Not** intended for admissions!!
 - Still need other tests for non-traditional students
 - Concern about lag time from PARCC tests to start of college (senior year supports?)
 - To begin for freshman entering in Fall 2016
 - Could be a realization of New Mexico Statute 22-2-8.11. High school curricula and end-of-course tests; alignment.
High school curricula and end-of-course tests shall be aligned with the placement tests administered by two- and four-year public educational institutions in New Mexico. The department of education [public education department] shall collaborate with the commission on higher education in aligning high school curricula and end-of-course tests with the placement tests. (History: Laws 2003, ch. 37, § 1.)

What has been the response of the New Mexico Higher Education community?

1. Secretary of Higher Education, José García, named to PARCC's Advisory Council on College Readiness (ACCR)
2. Naming of a PARCC Higher Education Leadership Team (NM HELT)
 - Rick Scott – Professor Emeritus, NMSU
 - Cathy Kinzer – NMSU
 - Marjori Krebs, Todd Ruecker and Alex Gonzales – UNM
 - Dennis Atherton – NMJC
 - Carmen Gonzales and Rebecca Estrada – SFCC

3. NM HELT participates in bi-monthly conference calls with PARCC and has participated in two PARCC National Post-Secondary Convenings
4. Participation in 3 Statewide PARCC Post-Secondary Convenings
 - October 2012: 14 public IHEs and 80 participants
 - May 2014: 25 public IHEs and 150 participants
 - September 2014: 25 public IHEs, 8 school districts and 140 participants
 - Campus PARCC leads, campus PARCC teams, and next steps plans defined

Looking Ahead

1. NM HELT participates in PARCC bi-monthly Conference Calls
2. PARCC wants to encourage individual IHEs to sign on as “PARCC Pioneers” committed to using PARCC for freshman placement
3. A Fourth PARCC Statewide Post-Secondary Convening after PARCC results are released in Fall of 2015